

## **Public Notice**

## U S Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District

Stream:

2006-02257-OHR

In reply refer to Public Notice No.

Issuance Date:

February 12, 2008

Closing Date:

Ohio River - MP 338

March 12, 2008

Please address all comments and inquiries to:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District

<u>ATTN: CELRH-OR-F</u> Public Notice No. (*reference above*)

502 Eighth Street

Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

Phone: (304) 399-5210

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** The purpose of this public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. We hope you will participate in this process.

**REGULATORY PROGRAM:** Since its early history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has played an important role in the development of the nation's water resources. Originally, this involved construction of harbor fortifications and coastal defenses. Later duties included the improvement of waterways to provide avenues of commerce. An important part of our mission today is the protection of the nation's waterways through the administration of the Corps Regulatory Program.

**SECTION 10:** The Corps is directed by Congress under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403) to regulate all work or structures in or affecting the course, condition or capacity of navigable waters of the United States (U.S.). The intent of this law is to protect the navigable capacity of waters important to interstate commerce.

**SECTION 404:** The Corps is directed by Congress under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344) to regulate the discharge of dredged and fill material into all waters of the United States, including wetlands. The intent of the law is to protect the nation's waters from the indiscriminate discharge of material capable of causing pollution and to restore and maintain their chemical, physical and biological integrity.

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**: The following application has been submitted for a Department of the Army Permit under the provisions of Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

**APPLICANT**:

New Steel International, Inc. 6730 Roosevelt Avenue Franklin, Ohio 45005

**LOCATION**: The project area is located in jurisdictional waters of the United States in the Ginat Creek and Ohio River watersheds. The proposed fleeting facility is located on the right descending bank of the Ohio River, 337.4-338.0 miles downstream of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in Haverhill, Scioto County, Ohio. The site is bisected by Gallia Pike, which runs north-south and is located west of State Route 52, east of the Ohio River and north of Ironton/Rankie Road in Haverhill, Scioto County, Ohio.

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WORK**: The applicant proposes to place fill material into waters of the United States in association with the construction of steel manufacturing facility. This facility would consist of a steel finishing facility, a slag/scrap staging area, a power transfer station, two ponds (one process water pond and one stormwater retention pond), a cooling facility, material storage areas, processed water intake caisson and associated roads and rail lines. In addition, a loading, unloading and fleeting facility would be located along the Ohio River between milepoint 337.4 and 338.0. According to the applicant, the purpose of the project is to construct, maintain and operate a steel manufacturing facility.

The project area encompasses approximately 800 acres. Waters of the United States within the limits of the site include 7.27 acres of jurisdictional wetlands, 78 linear feet of ephemeral stream, 5,018 linear feet of perennial stream (Ginat Creek) and approximately 3,000 linear feet of the Ohio River. Isolated waters of the State of Ohio include 10.61 acres of wetlands.

The applicant proposes to construct the steel facility in phases over a period of three years. The applicant proposes to impact a total of 2.77 acres of jurisdictional wetlands and 78 linear feet of ephemeral stream in association with construction of the steel manufacturing facility. An additional 9.39 acres of isolated wetlands would be impacted in association with construction activities. Details concerning individual wetlands proposed to be impacted and their quality (as assessed by the Ohio Rapid Assessment Method (ORAM) protocol) are attached (Table 1).

The applicant proposes to construct a barge loading, unloading and fleeting facility between milepoint 337.4 and 338.0 of the Ohio River. Materials to be unloaded are coal, ore and steel scrap. Materials to be loaded include steel rolls. A dock measuring 85 feet in width and extending 153 linear feet riverward from the normal pool shoreline would be constructed to support a crane and trucks for unloading. This dock would be supported by a series of steel caissons. The fleeting facility would consist of an upstream fleeting facility (full barges, ready to be unloaded), temporarily moored barges staged for unloading, an unloading area at the dock, and a downstream fleeting facility (empty barges). The facility would extend for a total distance of 3,050 linear feet along the riverbank. Each component of the river facility is described in further detail below.

A maximum of 24 barges (six long by four wide) would be fleeted at the upstream end of the facility and would consist of full barges staged for unloading. This upstream facility would extend 289 feet riverward from the normal pool shoreline. These barges would be secured to concrete deadmen secured on the top of the riverbank and a sheet piling cell that would also serve as a water intake structure. A 20-foot diameter steel caisson would be constructed to serve

as a water intake structure. This cell would require that 12 cubic yards of material be dredged at the base. A total of 82 cubic yards of fill would be discharged at the base of this cell in association with stabilization. A total of 600 cubic yards of fill material would be placed into the cell.

A maximum of four barges (1 long by 4 wide) would be secured just downstream of the fleet and would be moored to two 25' wide sheet piling cells. Each of these cells would require that 12 cubic yards of material be dredged at the base. A total of 82 cubic yards of fill would be discharged at the base of each of these cells in association with stabilization. A total of 998 cubic yards of fill material would be placed into each cell. These barges would be moored in this location in preparation for unloading.

The unloading area, consisting of the dock described above and no more than one barge at a time, would be just downstream of the staging area. The barge being unloaded would be secured to 72" pipe dolphins that are placed 153 linear feet riverward from the normal pool shoreline.

Empty barges would be fleeted in the downstream fleeting area and would consist of a maximum of 24 barges (six long by four wide). This fleet would extend a maximum of 222 linear feet riverward of the normal pool shoreline. These barges would be secured to 72" pipe dolphins that are placed 153 linear feet riverward of the normal pool shoreline and to concrete deadmen secured on the top of the riverbank.

MITIGATION: To compensate for proposed impacts to jurisdictional waters of the United States, the applicant has proposed avoidance, minimization and compensation measures. The applicant proposes to avoid impacts to 4.5 acres of jurisdictional wetlands, 1.22 acres of isolated wetlands and 5,021 linear feet of Ginat Creek. To minimize impacts to waters of the United States, the applicant proposes to implement best management construction practices. To compensate for impacts to waters of the United States, the applicant currently proposes to purchase 26.45 acres of credit from the Red Stone Farm Wetland Mitigation Bank located in Cynthiana, Pike County, Ohio.

ALTERNATIVE ANALYSIS: A total of 2.77 acres of jurisdictional wetlands would be filled as a result of the proposal. The project does not require access to or siting within the wetlands to fulfill its basic purpose and is considered a non-water dependent activity. The Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines state for non-water dependent activities, practicable alternatives that do not involve wetlands are presumed to be available unless clearly demonstrated otherwise. The applicant is required to provide an alternative analysis that must overcome the presumption prior to receiving authorization for the placement of fill material. A preliminary alternative analysis has been submitted to this office for review.

**ATTACHMENTS:** Plans of the proposed work are attached to this notice.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** A Section 401 Water Quality Certification is required for this project. It is the applicant's responsibility to obtain that certification from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES: The applicant has completed and submitted the results of a Phase I Cultural Resources Management Survey. Based on the results of this survey, 44 archaeological sites have been identified within the limits of the project area. Based on coordination of the results of this survey with the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO), it has been determined additional study is needed to assess the eligibility of eight sites. In addition to the above sites, it has also been determined that the Duduit Cemetery is within the project area and should be regarded as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

This office is coordinating with the applicant and the OHPO regarding Phase II work that should occur at the above-referenced sites. Should any of the sites above be deemed eligible for listing on the Register, the applicant would be required to avoid these sites, if practicable. If avoidance is not possible, this office will coordinate with the applicant, the OHPO and other interested parties to resolve proposed adverse effects. This office initiated coordination with Tribes that may have an interest in this proposal by letter dated December 13, 2007. This office has also initiated consultation with the Ohio Cemetery Preservation Society and the Cemetery Committee to resolve effects to the Duduit Cemetery.

A copy of this public notice will be sent to the Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) for their review. Comments concerning archeological sensitivity of a project area should be based upon collected data.

**THREATENED & ENDANGERED SPECIES:** This project is located within the known or historic range of the Indiana bat (Endangered); running buffalo clover (E); Virginia spiraea (Threatened); small whorled pogonia (T), rayed bean (Candidate); and sheepnose mussel (C).

Based on the project location and habitat availability on-site, the proposal may affect Federally-listed threatened and endangered species. Based on the applicant's avoidance and minimization measures, it is expected that the proposal is not likely to adversely affect the species listed above. The applicant has provided information that they have conducted habitat surveys and collected other information that should be useful in assisting this office in making determinations concerning the effect this proposal may have on listed species. Following receipt of this information, this office will review the information and coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as appropriate.

This public notice serves as a request to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any additional information they may have whether any listed or proposed to be listed endangered or threatened species may be present in the area that would be affected by the activity, pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1972 (as amended).

**PUBLIC INTEREST:** Any person who has an interest, which may be adversely affected by the issuance of a permit, may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing to the District Engineer on or before the expiration date of this notice and must clearly set forth the interest which may be adversely affected and the manner in which the interest may be adversely affected by the activity.

Interested parties are invited to state any objections they may have to the proposed work. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors that may be relevant to the proposal will be considered, including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are: conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under the authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act. Written statements on these factors received in this office on or before the expiration date of this public notice will become a part of the record and will be considered in the final determination. A permit will be granted unless its issuance is found to be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

**CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD:** All comments pertaining to this Public Notice must reach this office on or before the close of the comment period listed on page one of this Public Notice. Persons wishing to submit comments, objections or requests for public hearings concerning the Corps of Engineers permit should write:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: CELRH-OR-F **Public Notice No. 2006-02257-OHR** 502 8<sup>th</sup> Street Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070

Please note, the names and addresses of those who submit comments in response to this public notice become part of our administrative record and, as such, are available to the public under provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. Thank you for your interest in our nation's water

resources. If you have any questions concerning this public notice, please call Ms. Desiree L. Hann of the North Regulatory Section at 304-399-5210.

Burge Mullins

Chief, Regulatory Branch

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Table 1. Proposed impacts to waters of the United States and isolated waters of the State of Ohio in

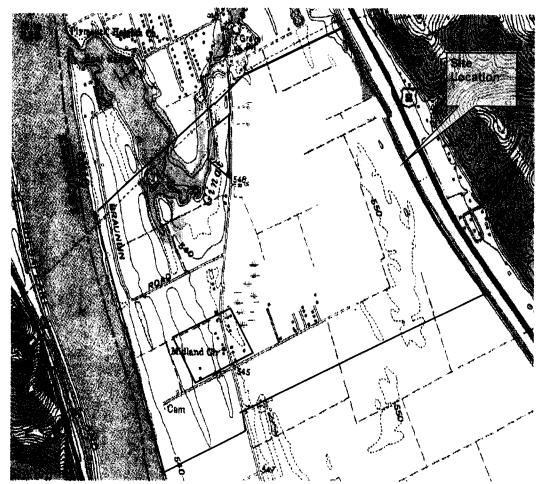
asssociation with construction of a steel facility located in Haverhill, Scioto County, Ohio.

Wetland	Total acreage	ORAM category	Proposed impacts	Proposed avoidance
Α	0.44 *	Category 1	0.44	0
В	0.49	Category 1	0.49	0
С	0.02 *	Category 1	0.02	0
D/G	0.1	Category 1	0.1	0
F	0.07	Category 1	0.07	0
Н	0.21 *	Category 1	0.21	0
		Modified Category		_
J	1.26 *	2	1.26	0
		Modified Category		
J(2)	0.15 *	2	0.15	0
K	4.5	Category 3	0	4.5
	0.00 +	Modified Category	_	
L	0.22 *	2	0	0.22
M	3.09 *	Category 2	3.09	0
N	1.78 *	Category 1	1.55	0.23
0	1.19	Category 2	1.19	0
Q	0.19 *	Category 1	0.19	0
R(1)	0.14 *	Category 2	0.02	0.12
R(2)	0.22 *	Category 2	0.22	0
R(3)	0.25 *	Category 2	0.25	0
R(4)	0.02	Category 2	0.02	0
R(5)	0.07	Category 2	0.07	0
R(6)	0.05 *	Category 2	0.05	0
R(7)	0.05 *	Category 2	0.05	0
S	1.4 *	Category 2	1.4	0
T(1)	0.2	Category 2	0.2	0
T(2)	0.65 *	Category 2	0	0.65
T(3)	0.02	Category 1	0.02	0
AA	0.24	Category 2	0.24	0
BB	0.37	Category 2	0.37	0
CC	0.49 *	Category 2	0.49	0
		Total	12.16	5.72

<sup>\*,</sup> Isolated waters of the State of Ohio

Table 2 Summary of jurisdictional and isolated waters proposed to be impacted and proposed to be avoided in association with the proposed steel facility construction in Haverhill, Scioto County, Ohio.

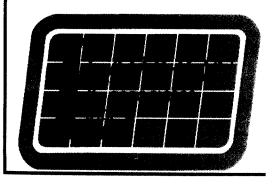
	Total wetland acreage	Proposed Impacts	Proposed avoidance
Jurisdictional			
waters	7.27	2.77	4.5
Isolated waters	10.61	9.39	1.22
Total	17.88	12.16	5.72



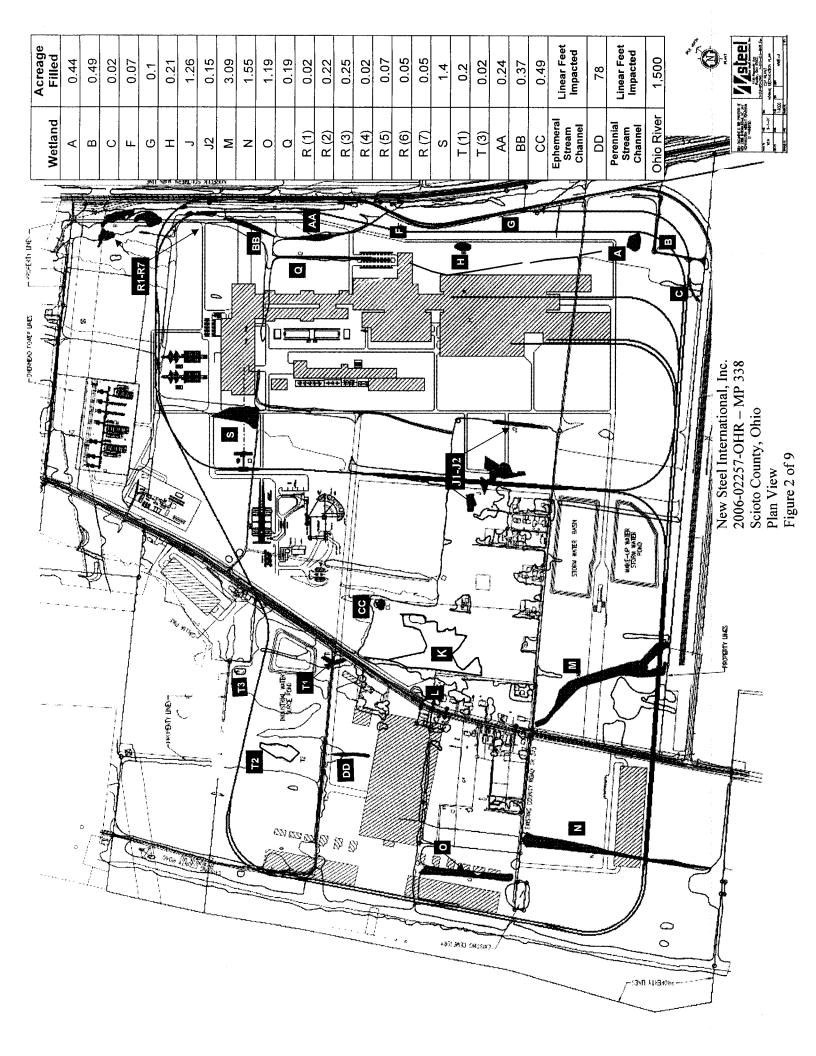
\* Map Not to Scale Boundaries are approximated

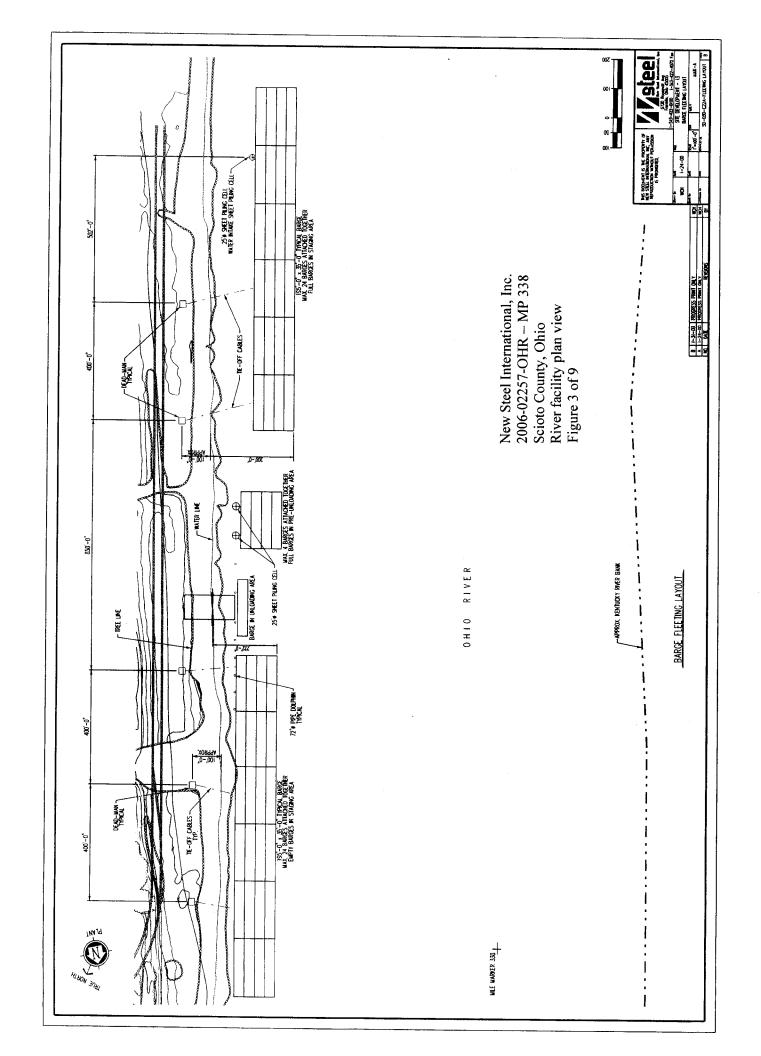


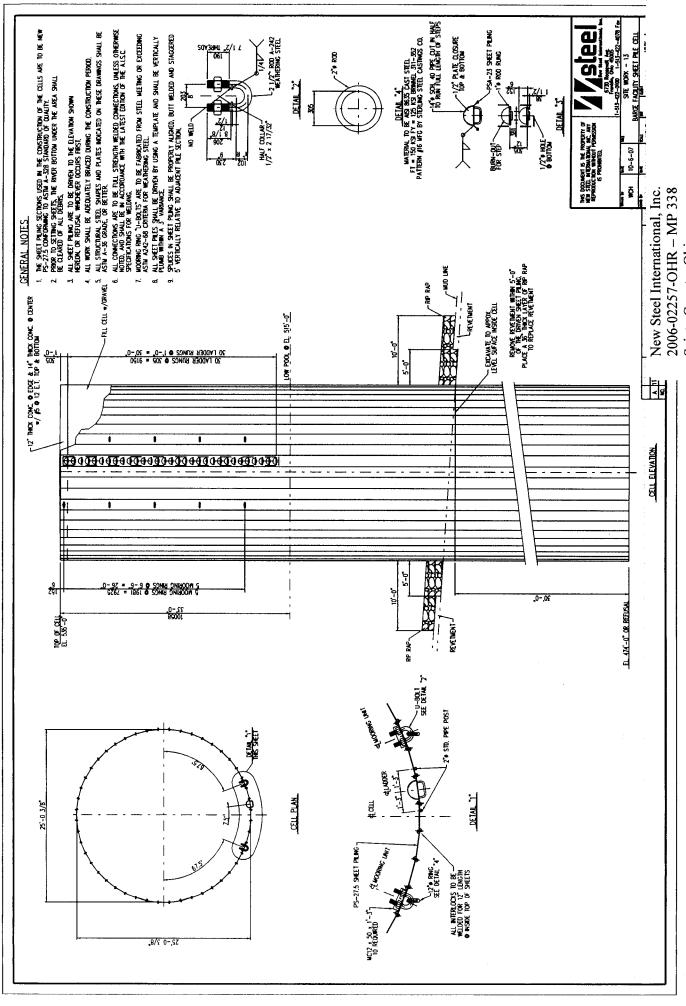
USGS Map Greenup, Ohio/Kentucky Attained Through the U.S. Geological Survey May Issued July, 1985



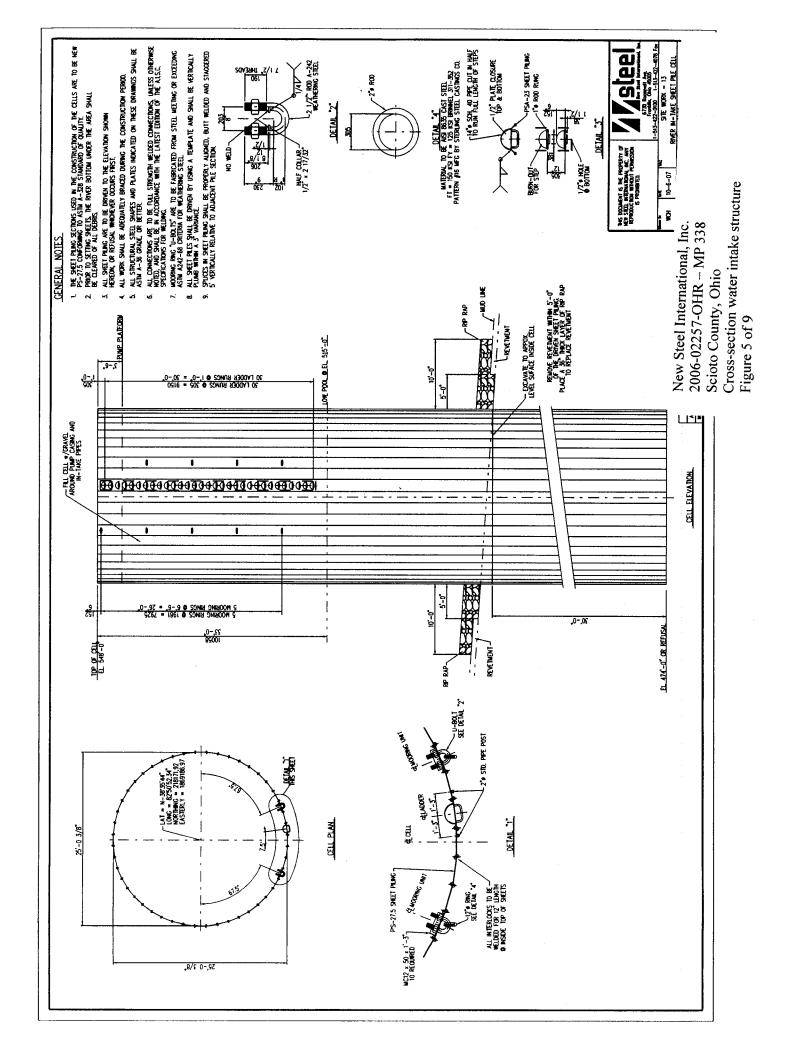
New Steel International, Inc. 2006-02257-OHR – MP 338 Scioto County, Ohio Site Location Map Figure 1 of 9

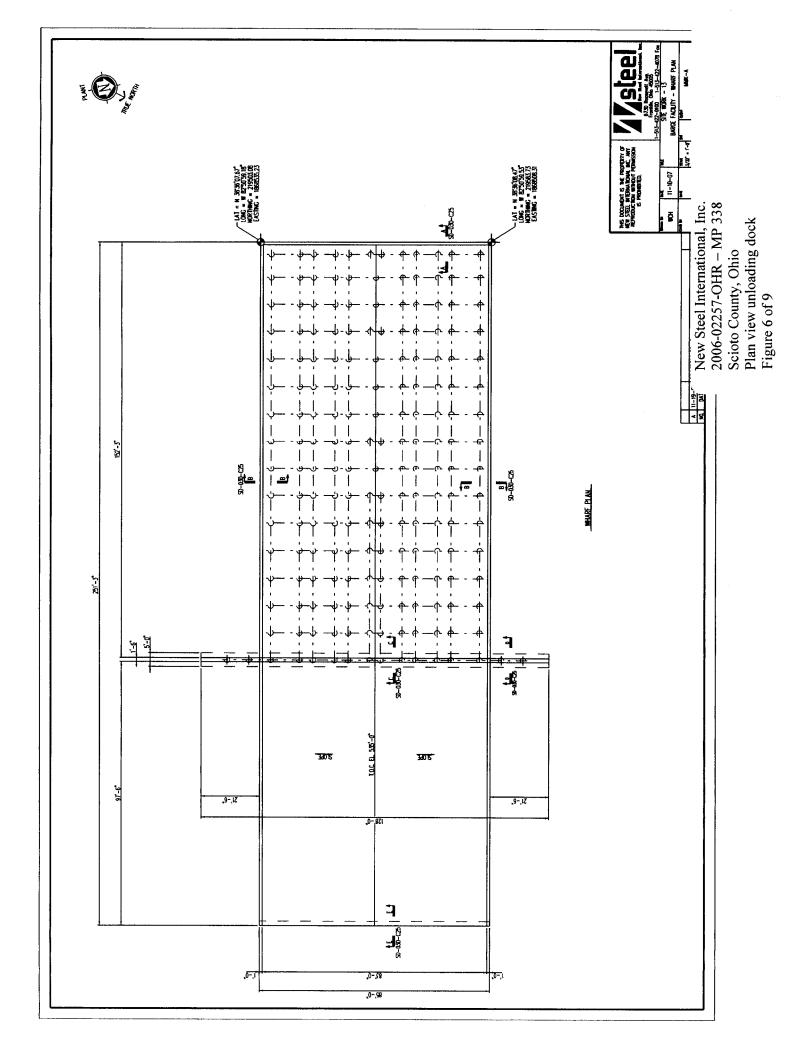






2006-02257-OHR – MP 338 Scioto County, Ohio Cross-section sheet pile cell Figure 4 of 9





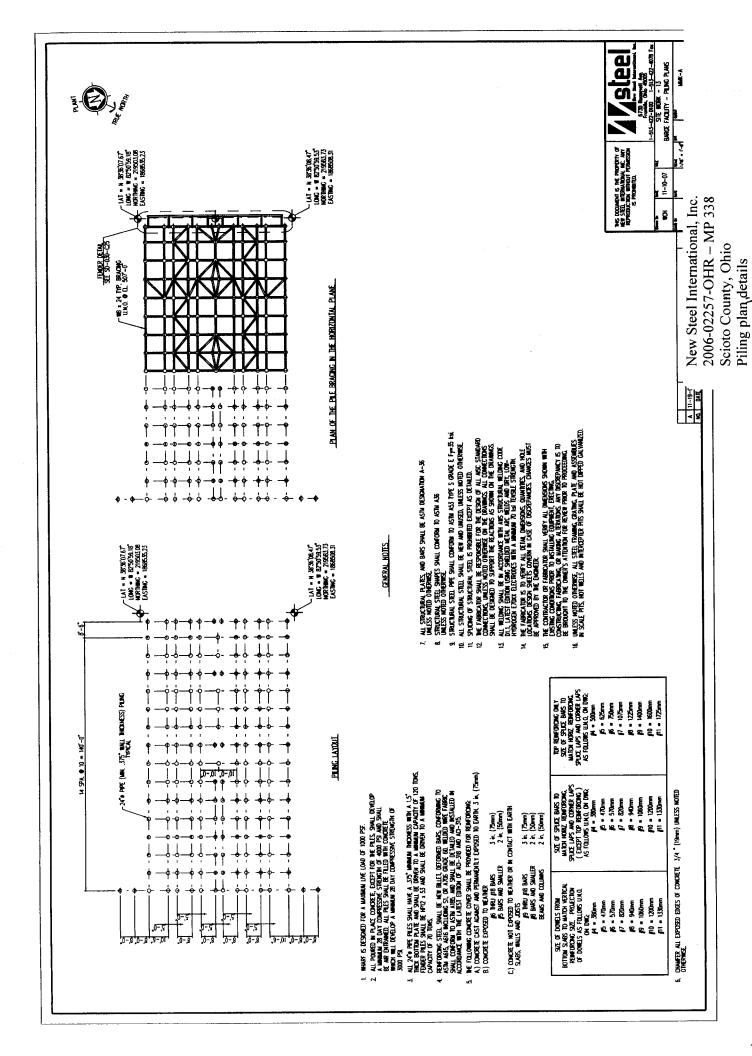


Figure 7 of 9

